

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to more clearly define the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is entered. It is believed that this amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 13, 2007.

Claim 1, the only independent claim, as amended, is to an electrical cable having a conductor core and a sheathing layer covering the core. The sheathing layer is made of a synthetic resin material and has an outer surface with a mono-color. The cable includes a first mark having a first color provided on a first outer surface portion of an outer surface of the sheathing layer, and a second mark having a second color provided on a second outer surface portion of the outer surface of the sheathing layer. The second color is different from the first color, and the second outer surface portion is positioned opposite the first outer surface portion in a circumferential direction of the cable. The first and second marks are positioned at an end of the cable so as to be opposite to each other in relation to an axial center of the cable. The sheathing layer of the cable has the first and second outer surface portions each extending in a longitudinal direction of the cable, at least one of the first and second outer surface portions is provided with a plurality of the first and second marks that are alternately positioned in the longitudinal direction of the cable, and the first mark is longer than the second mark in the longitudinal direction of the cable.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda (JP Patent Publication Number 06-190315) in view of Kondo (JP Patent

Publication Number 10-031918). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment and the following remarks.

In the Office Action it is alleged that Masuda teaches the presently claimed cable except for showing the first mark being longer than the second mark in the longitudinal direction of the cable, and that Kondo shows a first mark (83) that is longer than a second mark (82). The Office Action further alleges that the invention of Claim 1 is shown in FIGS. 9 and 11 of Masuda, except for the different lengths of the first and second marks.

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action is mischaracterizing the drawings of FIGS. 9 and 11 of Masuda. The drawings of FIGS. 9 and 11 do not show or suggest the claimed “at least one of the first and second outer surface portions is provided with a plurality of the first and second marks that are alternatively positioned in the longitudinal direction of the cable”, as required in Claim 1.

In FIG. 9a, mark M1 is repeated along the longitudinal direction of the cable at one outer surface.

In FIG. 9b mark M1 is repeated along the longitudinal direction of the cable at one outer surface, and M2 is repeated along the longitudinal direction of the cable at another outer surface.

FIG. 11, which shows wire marking equipment, is indefinite as to the arrangement of the marks.

Although FIG. 12 of Masuda may show alternating marks Ma, Mb and Mc, Masuda does not disclose or suggest combining alternating marks at one outer surface with positioning first and

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second marks at an end of the cable so as to be opposite to each other in relation to an axial center of the cable.


In view of the amendment to Claim 1 and the above remarks, removal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 4, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time